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March 19, 2003 LB 485, 593, 608, 643, 790

address those abuses without eliminating the industry totally. And I...one of the things that I thought and one of the reasons that I thought that the whole wage provision piece was in this bill was to get at some of the issues about meat packing. My great-grandfather came over from Moravia, one of my great-grandfathers, in the early part of the 1900s and he...his father and he and his brothers worked in the packing houses in south Omaha. That was very much a part of the immigrant experience in the early part of the nineteenth century, I mean of the twentieth century for and especially in south Omaha, and that's how a great number of people got started. They didn't necessarily stay in that industry, but it was an opening for them within this country. And we are still an agricultural state and, as Senator Bourne talked about, we need value added as a piece of that. And so as we struggle through this, I think that there are some other philosophical issues. We have to do some things to address the very real abuses that Senator Landis spoke about that we all know about, and our incentive cannot be to...I mean our business incentives cannot "incent" bad behavior. On the other hand, as a friend of mine from Omaha says so clearly, there's dirt and then there's dinner, and we got lots of dirt but we want to make dinner, and I think we have to be involved in the whole part of between there of making dirt to dinner. So Senator Landis and I have had this conversation before, but with this bill my goal is to not throw out the baby with the bathwater and I'm a little afraid this amendment gets us a little too close to throwing out the baby with the bathwater. But I want to listen, and I certainly am compelled by the descriptions that Senator Landis made of the abuses. I don't know if I am yet persuaded. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Mr. Clerk, items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on General Affairs, chaired by Senator Janssen, reports LB 485 to General File with committee amendments attached. An amendment to be printed to LB 790 by Senator Bourne and others. Mr. President, Senator Synowiecki would like to add his name to LB 643, Senator Engel to LB 593. (Legislative Journal pages 996-1000.)